

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8013
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 BONN 07780

DEPARTMENT PASS NYE; IAEA PASS LABOWITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, SENV, GW
SUBJECT: SCHMIDT-KUESTER'S SALZBURG SPEECH

1. MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (BMFT) PROVIDED
EMBASSY WITH CORRECTED ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF
SCHMIDT-KUESTER'S (ASST. ADMINISTRATOR FOR ENERGY
RESEARCH AND ECOLOGY, BMFT) MAY 2 SALZBURG SPEECH AT
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR POWER AND ITS
FUEL CYCLE SPONSORED BY THE IAEA, LATE AFTERNOON OF
MAY 4.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE:
THE NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMME OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY, ALWAYS EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO PEACEFUL
USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, WAS INITIATED EARLY AFTER THE
FIRST GENEVA CONFERENCE IN 1955. THE CONTINUING GOVERN-
MENTAL SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR R AND D WAS BASED ON THE
GENERAL CONCERN, THAT CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
WILL NO LONGER BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS
OF A CONTINUOUSLY GROWING ENERGY DEMAND. DESPITE
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ALL THE DISCUSSIONS AND CONTROVERSIES WE HAVE TO
FACE DURING THESE DAYS, THE DECISION MUST STILL BE
REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN FAR SIGHTED REGARDING THE
FACT, THAT NUCLEAR POWER IS THE ONLY POSSIBILITY TO
SUBSTITUTE FOSSIL FUELS IN THE MEDIUM TERM FUTURE.

THE NECESSITY TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER BECAME MORE

AND MORE APPARENT DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS. IN THE EARLY FIFTIES, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WAS, ON THE BASIS OF ITS ABUNDANT DOMESTIC RESERVES OF BOTH HARD COAL AND LIGNITE, AN ENERGY-INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LINKED WITH A SHARP INCREASE OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION ON THE ONE HAND AND THE DECREASE IN CONSUMPTION OF COAL - DUE TO THE AVAILABILITY OF EXTREMELY CHEAP OIL - ON THE OTHER, HAVE RESULTED IN A DEPENDENCY ON OIL AND GAS IMPORTS TO A LEVEL OF APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF OUR TOTAL ENERGY SUPPLY.

THE CONTINUOUS TREND TOWARDS AN EVER-INCREASING SHARE OF MINERAL OIL IN THE TOTAL ENERGY SUPPLY LED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY, HALF A YEAR BEFORE THE OIL CRISIS MADE EVERYBODY AWARE OF THE INHERENT PROBLEMS.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY WERE:

- SUFFICIENT AND LOW-PRICE ENERGY SUPPLIES TO CONSUMERS IN ALL PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY;
- A SECURED SUPPLY IN THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM;
- A SUPPLY OF ENERGY AT FAVOURABLE TOTAL COSTS TO THE ECONOMY IN THE LONG TERM;
- ADEQUATE AND EARLY CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, IN ORDER TO LINK CLOSELY ENERGY-AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY.

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ON THIS BASIS, THE EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED TOWARDS A REDUCTION OF IMPORT DEPENDENCY ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS AND TO A STABILIZATION OF INDIGENOUS COAL UTILIZATION. NUCLEAR ENERGY WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET MOST OF THE GROWING ENERGY DEMAND, AT LEAST FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION.

IN 1974 THIS PROGRAMME WAS REVISED TO AIM AT:

- REDUCING THE PERCENTAGE OF MINERAL OIL IN OUR OVERALL ENERGY SUPPLY;
- AN ACCELERATED USE OF NATURAL GAS AND LIGNITE;
- A STABILIZATION OF HARD-COAL UTILIZATION
- GREATER EFFORTS IN ENERGY CONSERVATION.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8014

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PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE WAS ASSIGNED TO NUCLEAR ENERGY.
THE SHARE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN THE SUPPLY OF PRIMARY
ENERGY WAS PROJECTED TO INCREASE FROM 1 PER CENT IN
1973 TO 15 PER CENT IN 1985.

A NEW PROJECTION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE LAST THREE YEARS WAS DECIDED BY THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT A MONTH AGO. THESE SO CALLED GUIDELINES
COME TO THE CONCLUSION, THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF
PRIMARY ENERGY WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 10 PER CENT
LOWER IN 1985 THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED. THE DELAYS
IN BUILDING AND OPERATING NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS DUE
TO ACTIONS OF INTERVENERS AND DELAYS IN THE PREPARATION
AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NECESSARY INSTALLATIONS
FOR THE BACK END OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE WILL NOT
MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO REACH THE NUCLEAR CAPACITY
ORIGINALLY FORESEEN.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POINTS OUT, THAT A CAPACITY
OF APPROXIMATELY 30,000 MWE WOULD BE CONSIDERED
NECESSARY BY 1985 TO AVOID SHORTAGES IN ELECTRICITY
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SUPPLIES.

THIS ADJUSTMENT OF FIGURES, LEADING TO A SLOWER DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER, SIMILAR TO THE SITUATION IN MANY OTHER INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES, HAS OFTEN BEEN INTERPRETED AS A DRAMATIC SET BACK OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND A COMPLETE FAILURE OF MOST ENERGY POLICIES. IT IS TRUE, THAT THE WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC RECESSION LED TO A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION BOTH IN ENERGY GROWTH AND IN LARGE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS. UNCERTAINTIES CAUSED BY THE INCREASING LOCAL RESISTANCE OF THE PUBLIC, IN GENERAL INITIATED BY ANTINUCLEAR GROUPS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS, ALSO HAS INFLUENCED THE PLANNING OF UTILITIES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, HOWEVER, TO ASSESS ACCURATELY THE IMPACT OF THESE EVENTS. THE MAIN REASON FOR THE UNCERTAINTIES IN NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMMES STILL APPEARS TO BE THE EARLY STAGE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY ITSELF.

AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL BE THE COMPLETE INCLUSION OF ALL ACCOMPANYING AND NECESSARY COSTS, IN PARTICULAR OF THE FUEL CYCLE, IN THE PRICE OF THE NUCLEAR KWH. IN THE PAST, ABUNDANT SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THOSE COUNTRIES WITH A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPACITY HAVE NOT BEEN AN INCENTIVE FOR INDUSTRIES TO BUILD AND OPERATE THE NECESSARY INSTALLATIONS FOR A COMPLETELY CLOSED FUEL CYCLE.

DURING THE PAST YEARS WE HAVE DEVELOPED A COMPREHENSIVE CONCEPT FOR THE COMPLETE BACK END OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE. IT ASSIGNS GREAT IMPORTANCE TO REPROCESSING, WASTE HANDLING AND STORAGE AS A GUARANTEE FOR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THE SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM WAS MADE A PREREQUISIT FOR FURTHER LICENSING OF NEW PLANTS. THE DENSELY POPULATED TERRITORY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DOES

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NOT ALLOW LONG-TERM STORAGE OF IRRADIATED FUEL ELEMENTS.

THE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE PLANNED FUEL CYCLE CENTER COMPRISING ALL STAGES OF REPROCESSING, RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT, CAN DRAW TN CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THIS FIELD AND ON A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROCHEMIC AND OF THE UNITED REPROCESSORS. EXPERIENCE WITH THE EUROCHEMIC

PLANT AND WITH THE WAK PLANT AT KARLSRUHE WILL BE USED TO BUILD THE FIRST LARGE REPROCESSING PLANT OF 1500 T/A CAPACITY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO GO INTO OPERATION IN THE LATE EIGHTIES. THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF THIS PROJECT WILL BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE WATER PONDS FOR THE STORAGE OF IRRADIATED FUEL ELEMENTS.

FOR LOW AND MEDIUM LEVEL WASTE TECHNOLOGIES ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE AND ONLY LITTLE EFFORT IS NECESSARY FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT. R AND D ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONDITIONING OF HIGH LEVEL WASTE ARE CONCENTRATED ON EMBEDDING OF THIS MATERIAL IN GLASS CERAMICS AND METAL MATRICES. DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES WILL TAKE PLACE IN UNDERGROUND SALT FORMATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN STABLE GEOLOGICALLY DURING MORE THAN 100 MILLION YEARS.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8015

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE

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FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY THE FAST BREEDER REACTOR SYSTEM IS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL OPTIONS FOR SECURING OUR ENERGY SUPPLY ON A LONG-TERM BASIS. CONSEQUENTLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPROCESSING AND PLUTONIUM RECYCLE TECHNOLOGY IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR OUR COUNTRY. STRETCHING THE RESOURCES OF NUCLEAR FUELS BY THE USE OF PLUTONIUM WILL ALSO BE OF GREAT

IMPORTANCE FOR LIGHT WATER REACTORS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AT LEAST FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT HAVE LARGE INDIGENOUS DEPOSITS OF URANIUM AND LIMITED SOURCES OF OTHER PRIMARY ENERGIES. BUT IN ADDITION TO SECURING THE NECESSARY ENERGY SUPPLY THERE ARE ALSO SAFETY ASPECTS WHICH ACCORDING TO OUR JUDGEMENT MAKE REPROCESSING ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, SINCE AN INDEFINITE STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS IN WATER POOLS OR OTHER STORAGE FACILITIES CAN NOT BE JUSTIFIED FOR A DENSELY POPULATED COUNTRY LIKE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO TRANSFORM NUCLEAR WASTE INTO MATERIALS, WHICH CAN BE FINALLY DISPOSED OF SAFELY WITHOUT AN UNACCEPTABLE HIGH DEGREE OF REMAINING RISKS.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS FULLY AWARE OF ALL THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO REPROCESSING AND THE LARGE SCALE UTILIZATION OF PLUTONIUM. IT HAS CAREFULLY WEIGHED ALL FACTORS PRO AND CONTRA WHICH HAVE RISEN WITH RESPECT TO OUR CONCEPT OF CLOSING THE BACK END OF THE FUEL CYCLE. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES SPECIFIC TO OUR COUNTRY WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION, THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR PROGRAMME TO BUILD A LARGE REPROCESSING PLANT WITHOUT ANY DELAY. ON THE OTHER HAND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY PERFECTLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT CONDITIONS MIGHT FOR THEIR PART ARRIVE AT OTHER CONCLUSIONS.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENT FOR THE COMMERCIAL UTILISATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, THE ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE NETHERLANDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL FROM THE TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW. PILOT PLANTS OF APPROXIMATELY 70 TONS OF SEPARATIVE WORK ARE IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION SINCE SOME YEARS AT ALMELO AND CAPENHURST. AT THE MOMENT THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL CAPACITY OF 400 T SWU IS WELL ADVANCED. SEVERAL CASCADES ARE ALREADY IN OPERATION AND THE TWO PLANTS WILL BE FINISHED BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR, TO REPRESENT THE FIRST PARTS OF A LARGER CAPACITY OF 2000 T SWU ALREADY COMMITTED THROUGH CONTRACTS WITH UTILITIES.

THE FIRST 2000 T SWU PROGRAMME WILL BE EXECUTED WITH FINANCIAL BACKING FROM THE THREE GOVERNMENTS. ANY ADDITIONAL CAPACITY WILL HAVE TO BE BUILT WITHOUT

DIRECT FINANCIAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE THREE GOVERNMENTS.

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THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY SHARES THE WORLD WIDE CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGER OF A PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR WEAPONS MATERIAL. CONSEQUENTLY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS RENOUNCED THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ALREADY IN 1954 AND HAS SIGNED AND RATIFIED THE NON PROLIFERATION TREATY. SINCE 1958 SHE IS SUBJECT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM OF EURATOM. IN ADDITION THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS AT ALL POSSIBLE OCCASIONS DEMONSTRATED HER WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY ON THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING NON PROLIFERATION TREATY. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS TREATY, WHICH MORE THAN 100 NATIONS HAVE ALREADY JOINED, IS THE OPTIMAL POLITICAL, LEGAL AND MORAL BASIS ON WHICH NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS CAN EFFICIENTLY AND SUCCESSFULLY BE DEVELOPED IN FUTURE.

NUCLEAR POWER WILL NOT ONLY BE BENEFICIAL TO INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS BUT WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE OF MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS WORLD. WE, THEREFORE, BELIEVE THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE TERMS OF THE NON PROLIFERATION TREATY COUNTRIES WITH A HIGHLY DEVELOPED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY SHOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. WE ARE CONVINCED, THAT FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT OF THE

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8016

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TREATY A NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY MUST NOT LEAD TO A POLICY OF TECHNOLOGICAL DENIAL, WHICH ACCORDING TO OUR OPINION WILL BE DETRIMENTAL IN THE LONG RUN AND HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS. THUS WE ARE DECIDED TO FOLLOW A LINE OF COOPERATION AND EFFECTIVE NON-PROLIFERATION SAFEGUARDS, STRONGLY SUPPORTING ALL EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS AND CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING THE RESPECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES. WE ARE THEREFORE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE WITH RECIPIENT AND SUPPLYING COUNTRIES.

WHEREAS THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FOR THE LWR CAN BE REGARDED AS ENTERING THE COMMERCIAL PHASE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED REACTOR SYSTEMS HAS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO AND WILL NEED GOVERNMENTAL FUNDING FOR QUITE SOME TIME TO COME.

IN THE AREA OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR SNR-300 DEMONSTRATION PLANT, A RESULT OF THE COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMAN, BELGIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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AND NETHERLANDS GROUPS IS PROGRESSING AT KALKAR. FIRST OPERATION OF THIS PLANT IS EXPECTED FOR THE END OF 1981.

IN ADDITION TO THIS WELL ESTABLISHED COOPERATION, PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES WITH FRANCE. GERMAN UTILITIES (REPRESENTING AT THE SAME TIME THEIR BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS PARTNERS) HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUPER-PHENIX, THE FIRST BREEDER REACTOR POWER PLANT OF THE 1000 MW RANGE.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL SIDE AN INTEGRATION OF GERMAN AND FRENCH INDUSTRIES, HAS BEEN INITIATED, STARTING WITH A SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND LICENSING COMPANY, WITH THE AIM TO EVENTUALLY BUILD A JOINT COMPANY FOR THE

CONSTRUCTION OF BREEDER REACTORS. ANOTHER AGREEMENT
FOR COOPERATION IN THIS AREA WAS CONCLUDED LAST YEAR
WITH US-ERDA.

THE OTHER REACTOR SYSTEM BEING DEVELOPED IN THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE HIGH TEMPERATURE
REACTOR, OFFERS SPECIAL PROMISES WITH REGARD TO THE
GENERATION OF NUCLEAR PROCESS HEAT APPLICABLE IN
PARTICULAR, TO COAL-GASIFICATION. AFTER A HIGHLY
PROMISING START, THE HTR HAS SUFFERED FROM THE
SEVERE SETBACK AFTER THE BREAK DOWN OF THE COMMERCIAL
ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL ATOMIC COMPANY IN THE USA
IN 1975. ACTIVITIES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY ARE, AT PRESENT, CONCENTRATING ON THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A NEW COMPREHENSIVE HTR PROGRAMME COMPRISING:

- A SINGLE REACTOR CONCEPT OF THE PEBBLE BED TYPE
FOR ALL POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS,

- A REALIGNMENT OF THE CAPACITIES FOR MANUFACTURING
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AND PLANNING IN INDUSTRY AS WELL AS RESEARCH ESTABLISH-
MENTS, AND

- ORGANISATIONAL AND FINANCIAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE
POTENTIAL OPERATORS.

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SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BROAD INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, SINCE THE EXTREMELY HIGH COSTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW REACTOR SYSTEM CAN HARDLY BE BORNE BY A SINGLE COUNTRY.

THIS SHORT REVIEW OF THE NUCLEAR PART OF THE ENERGY AND THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TRIED TO MAKE IT CLEAR, THAT LARGE EFFORTS ARE STILL NECESSARY IN MANY AREAS FOR THE ECONOMIC IMPLEMENTATION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES AS A BASIS FOR AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR PRIMARY ENERGY SUPPLY.

THESE DAYS WE MEET MANY WHO OPPOSE NUCLEAR ENERGY. MANY OF THEM UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF A SECURED ENERGY SUPPLY FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SOCIETY, THE WELFARE AND PROSPERITY OF MANKIND. WE ARE THEREFORE CONVINCED THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO CONCENTRATE ALL THEIR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP BOTH NUCLEAR AND NON-NUCLEAR
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TECHNOLOGIES TO COMPLY WITH ALL THE NEEDS OF OUR SOCIETIES INCLUDING THE PROCUREMENT OF THE NECESSARY ENERGY SUPPLIES.

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